Task Force. Twenty-six of the defendants were charged with aggravated identity theft. That statute carries a mandatory penalty of two years for each count of conviction.

U.S. Attorney Rosenberg stated, "This sentence – like the recent indictment of 51 individuals on identity theft charges - is illustrative of the commitment that we have in prosecuting and deterring identity theft."

The Task Force was formed in the fall of 2004 and is housed at the offices of the United States Postal Inspection Service, located in Henrico County. Full-time member agencies include: the Postal Inspection Service; United States Secret Service; Federal Bureau of Investigation; U.S. Treasury Inspector General, Office of Investigations; Henrico County Police Department; Richmond Police Department; and Chesterfield Police Department. Prosecutions for the Task Force are handled by the United States Attorney's Office and the Office of the Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

For more information on the Task Force, including assistance for victims of identity theft, visit: <a href="www.richmondIDtheft.com">www.richmondIDtheft.com</a>. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Laura Colombell Marshall.